received in the Darjeeling hills while the 1 KW MW transmitter has a range of about 20 Kms. Due to power restrictions of International Telecom Union, the power of MW transmitter there cannot be increased.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Bids for prime-time DD Metro Channel slots

2349. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether second-time poor response to bids for prime-time DD Metro-Channel slots without any fixed reserve floor price has greatly disappointed Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government suspect that lack of adequate response to bids by major broadcasters like Star, Zee and Sony Entertainment television is a deliberate one to downsize DD Metro Channel;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the line of action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the market response was not to thier expectations. The bid offers were too low and Prasar Bharati, after due consideration, has rejected the offers. The details of the bids received are as under:—

Time Slot	Name of bidders	Bid Amount in Rs.
7.00 to 8.00 PM	M/s Prachar Communications	1,00,53,158/-
8.00 to 9.00 PM	M/s Pritish Nandy Communications	1,01,00,000/-
	M/s Prachar Communications	4,60,34,921/-
	M/s Sri Adhikari Brothers	9,00,00,000/-
9.00 to 10.00 PM	M/s Prachar Communications	6,38,00,921/-
	M/s Sri Adhikari Brothers	9,00,00,000/-
10.00 to 11.00 PM	M/s Prachar Communications	4,00,67,921/-

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the programmes will be taken up on sponsorship basis to meet the requirement of the Channel, as per the relevant guidelines of Doordarshan.

Concept Paper on the composition of Media Council

2350. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a concept paper on the composition, powers, functions and source of funding for the proposed Media Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have obtained the opinions of broadcasters and other media persons on the proposal;

(d) if so, the views thereon; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No such concept paper has been prepared.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Financial irregularities in Share Market

†2351. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that certain companies have been found guilty for committing financial irregularities in share markets during the last months;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the details of charges levelled against each company;

(c) whether Government have taken any action against these companies; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.